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GRAPE EXPECTATIONS RAISE A GLASS IN CALIFORNIA'S WINE COUNTRY {page 13}



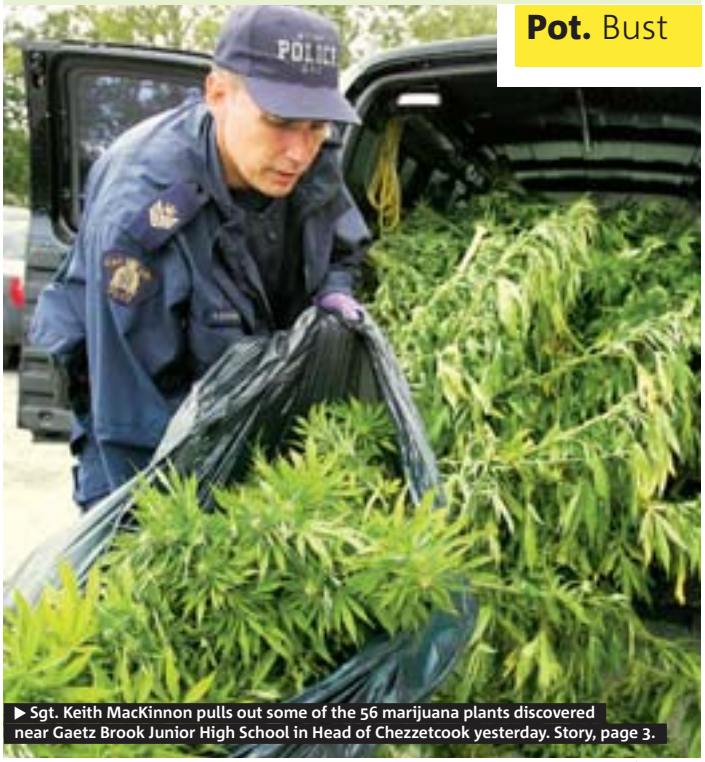
STOP US IF YOU'VE SEEN THIS ONE... DEJA VU AT THE MOVIES {page 10}



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Pot. Bust



▶ Sgt. Keith MacKinnon pulls out some of the 56 marijuana plants discovered near Gaetz Brook Junior High School in Head of Chezzetcook yesterday. Story, page 3.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Flyover uncovers 35 grow-ops

Police worked with a military helicopter yesterday to locate marijuana grow-ops from the sky during an annual operation. At least 35 grow-ops in the province's interior were located.

N.S. unveils green rebate

New homeowners can earn back up to $7K {page 4}

Herd to bench odd man out

One 20-year-old player must sit out this weekend {page 18}

Cops target string of swarmings

Police ask public to stand with them, not tolerate 'cowardly' attacks ◐ Swarming perpetrators 'motivated for confrontation,' says HRP spokesman

Halifax Regional Police are devoting extra resources to investigating a rash of swarmings in Halifax's north end over the Labour Day weekend.

The string of assaults and robberies took place within a very circumscribed area — the first occurring on Maitland Street Friday night, the most recent on Davison Street late Monday.

In five of the six assaults, victims were asked for a cigarette or a light before a group of youths assaulted them.

Police spokesman Const. Brian Palmeter said the information would lead any reasonable person to believe the incidents are related. The descriptions of the assailants are too vague, however, to say for sure. Palmeter called the acts "cowardly" and said resources are being put toward finding and arresting the perpetrators.

"We want citizens to know and those responsible to know that we are not going to tolerate these types of attacks," he said, adding he could not specify what resources will be deployed.

It's unclear, however, what pedestrians in the area can do to ensure they don't fall victim to an attack.

In three of the attacks, the victims were walking in groups of two or more. Three were on or near well-lit, busy streets like Robie, Agricola and Gottingen.

"We would still encourage people to travel in groups," said Palmeter. "However ... the groups were intent on looking for that confrontation, so unfortunately it makes it very difficult to protect yourself from those types of attacks."

ALEX BOUTILIER

Documented attacks

- **Monday, 9:05 p.m. – Davison Street**
 Man and woman assaulted by three youths with steel broom handle.
- **Monday, 9 p.m. – Gladstone Street**
 Man assaulted by group of 15 to 20 youths.
- **Sunday, 12:26 a.m. – Agricola and Charles**
 Three men assaulted by group of youths.
- **Saturday, 8:43 p.m. – Maitland Street**
 Man assaulted by male in group while walking with woman.
- **Friday, 11:37 p.m. – Maitland Street**
 Man assaulted by six to eight people.
- **Friday, 9:20 p.m. – Maitland Street**
 Man and woman assaulted by six to eight youths.

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University of Ottawa	Sept 6	5pm - 10pm
Carleton	Sept 7	10:30am - 5pm
Toronto		
University of Toronto	Sept 10	4pm - 8pm
Ryerson	Sept 7	10am - 4pm
York	Sept 22	10am - 5pm
Calgary		
University of Calgary	Sept 10	3pm - 7pm
SAIT	Sept 16	11am - 2pm
Edmonton		
Grant MacEwan University	Sept 9	12pm - 5pm
Vancouver		
UBC	Sept 8	10am - 4pm
Simon Fraser	Sept 7	10am - 3pm
BCIT	Sept 7	9am - 3pm

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RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX



▶ Sgt. Keith MacKinnon combs through a police van full of marijuana plants yesterday.

Police work to weed the forests

Marijuana plants reach maturity and are harvested in late summer Plants are spotted from the air due to their unique colour and because they're usually in pots Annual operations to eradicate marijuana plants are held in every province



JENNIFER TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

It's prime pot harvesting season and police are out hunting.

RCMP and Halifax Regional Police are working with a military helicopter this week to spot marijuana plants from the sky.

One of several busts yesterday was made near Gaetz Brook junior high school in Head of Chezzetcook where police discovered 56 plants. They were not found on school property, but Sgt. Keith MacKinnon said the location was a concern.

The helicopter identified at least 35 sites yesterday — some on private land and others on Crown land. Once spotted from the sky, police teams on the ground (24 officers in teams of two) moved in and cut out the plants.

"When you consider one fully matured marijuana plant can produce 300-500 joints on the street, that's a lot of marijuana plants taken out of the hands of young people," said MacKinnon yesterday.

Most grow-ops usually fund higher levels of organized crime, he added.

"This puts a dent in their efforts."

There were no arrests yesterday and there likely won't be any during this operation. MacKinnon said they don't have the resources to sit officers on all grow-ops to wait for someone to come by and tend the plants.

"So we take the plants and we investigate once we have more evidence to lead to arrests on," he said. "Today's operation is pure eradication."

Booby traps

- Several grow-ops are called in to the police by people stumbling onto them, said Sgt. Keith MacKinnon. "Hydro crews come across them, children out building forts come across them and tell their parents," he said.
- If you find marijuana plants while out for a hike, don't stick around. Get out and call police, MacKinnon advises.
- "There are booby-traps involved and there's some things we've seen in the past that are very alarming and we don't need the public to be exposed to this," he said.

1 news

News on the move

1 Download the free ScanLife application with your smartphone at 2dscan.com

2 Use the ScanLife application on your smartphone to scan 2D barcodes in Metro

3 The codes will direct your mobile browser to relevant content at **m.metronews.ca**

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ASSAULT

Man wanted in alleged groping

Halifax Regional Police are investigating a report of sexual assault after a woman said a man grabbed her breast as she walked alone on Fenwick Street.

The 29-year-old victim was walking just after 11 p.m. on Sunday when a man going in the opposite direction grabbed her breast and kept walking, police said.

The victim turned to confront the man, but he started walking back towards her. Police said she then fled the area and contacted police.

Police said the suspect, described as white and in his early 30s, was last seen running northbound in the 1100 block of Tower Road.

PHILIP CROUCHER

Province pushing energy efficiency

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX



▶ Nova Scotia Energy Minister Bill Estabrooks leaves an energy-efficient home in Dartmouth yesterday.

New home owners could qualify for up to $7,000 in green rebates



ALEX BOUTILIER
@METRONEWS.CA

The province is hoping new rebates will encourage new home owners to buy green.

The PerformancePlus program, announced by Energy Minister Bill Estabrooks yesterday, will provide new home owners $3,000 to $7,000 in rebates depending on how energy-efficient their homes are.

"New home owners want to make sure they have some of these special, attractive features that are important as they look at their budget monthly," said Estabrooks.

"Having talked to a number of the home builders who are here, that's the selling feature for a program such as this ... it's a real good initiative."

The size of the rebate depends on the home's EnerGuide rating.

A home must achieve a rating of 83 (out of 100) to qualify for the minimum rebate.

Estabrooks said the rebate program is meant to fill the hole left when the federal government cut its environmental incentive program earlier in the year.

"We decided if (the federal government) wasn't going to be following up an important initiative like this, we were just going to get out there and do what we could," he said.

"Not to stick a fork into them, but they've missed the boat."

One real estate agent on hand for the announcement said the money is sorely needed, as the industry feels the effects of the province's two percentage point HST hike in July.

The rebate program went into effect yesterday. It will be available on a first come, first served basis for 12,000 home buyers, or until June 30, 2011, whichever comes first.

Estabrooks said he anticipates all positions will be filled well in advance of the deadline.

Solar power

- In addition to new rebates based on a home's EnerGuide rating, the province is providing a $200 rebate if a new home comes solar-ready, and an additional $1,000 rebate is available if solar equipment already installed.

News in brief

Break and enter suspect in court

CRIME. A 22-year-old Halifax man is facing several charges in relation to a string of late-night break and enters of homes in the Bedford and Rockingham areas.

Craig Kyle Gilbert was due in Halifax provincial court yesterday, charged with eight counts of break and enter and theft and one county of attempted break and enter.

Gilbert was arrested at his residence on Waegwoltic Avenue on Friday night.

Police allege he is responsible for eight home break-ins over the summer.

METRO HALIFAX

Man escapes robbery

CRIME. Two men attempted to rob another man inside a bank on Monday. Just after 11 p.m., two masked men — one carrying a knife — walked up to the victim who was inside the Bank of Nova Scotia on Dutch Village Road. They demanded $500 but the victim said he didn't have that kind of cash and ran away.

METRO HALIFAX

Crash sends man to hospital

ACCIDENT. A 55-year-old man was sent to hospital with serious injuries after a crash on Highway 7 on Monday. A pick-up was travelling on East Chezzetcook Road when it turned into the path of a motorcycle.

METRO HALIFAX





RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX



▶ Interim Tory leader Jamie Baillie in a photo from last month.

Baillie eyeing Cumberland South seat

Cumberland South MLA Murray Scott to make an announcement with Baillie today Area MP Scott Armstrong to also attend

ALEX BOUTILIER
@METRONEWS.CA

Interim Leader Jamie Baillie is expected to announce his candidacy today for the Progressive Conservative nomination in Cumberland South.

Soon-to-be-retired Cumberland South MLA Murray Scott is holding a press conference with Baillie in Springhill at 12:30 p.m.

And while the Tories were staying mum on the content of Scott's announcement when contacted by Metro, all signals point to the 57-year-old former police officer endorsing Baillie as the next Tory candidate in the riding.

Party spokesman Michael Kydd was quoted by the Amherst Daily as saying yesterday Baillie "will be a candidate for the party's nomination" in the riding.

In August, Scott announced he will leave provincial politics by the end of the year to "allow someone else the opportunity to represent the residents" of Cumberland South.

Scott has held a seat in Cumberland South since he was first elected in 1998.

Tight-lipped

- Jamie Baillie — the former chief of staff to premier John Hamm — has been quiet in the face of widespread speculation about where he'll seek a seat in the legislature.

HURRICANE AFTERMATH

Power expected to be restored to homes

Service should be restored today to the roughly 100 homes still without power after hurricane Earl.

Nova Scotia Power spokeswoman Patty Faith yesterday said crews were working on about 100 individual power outages in the province, 18 of which were in HRM.

"Our crews (are) going door-to-door literally to civic addresses just to repair that damage," she said.

Faith said the remaining outages were isolated, mostly caused by high winds and downed trees from Saturday's weather.

At the peak, about 220,000 households and businesses were without power as a result of the storm.

ALEX BOUTILIER

Church property sale begins

The Roman Catholic Church has put a small portion of its Nova Scotia properties on the market to help pay for the settlement of a lawsuit in claims of sexual abuse.

Rev. Paul Abbass says the diocese of Antigonish has put about 25 of 400 non-core assets up for sale so far in the province's northeast.

The goal is to raise $18 million. THE CANADIAN PRESS



People 'not for sale'

- 'Blue Blindfold' campaign will help fight human trafficking
- Follows arrival of Tamil refugees

MASTER CPL. ANGELA ABBEY/CANADIAN FORCES COMBAT CAMERA



▶ Hundreds of passengers crowd the deck of Motor Vessel Sun Sea after spotting the arrival of HMCS Winnipeg off the coast of British Columbia last month. Public Safety Minister Vic Toews yesterday announced a campaign to raise awareness about human trafficking.

The federal government is teaming up with the Mounties and Crime Stoppers to raise awareness about human trafficking.

Public Safety Minister Vic Toews says Crime Stoppers will join his department and the RCMP to tell people about human trafficking and how to report suspicious activity.

Toews, speaking at a news conference in Winnipeg, said the campaign will help Canadians fight a "disturbing" crime.

He said victims of human trafficking are often coerced into working for the criminals who bring them into the country.

"Victims are forced, often through violence and threats, to provide their services or labour because of their fear of their safety or that of someone else," he said.

"The majority are forced to work in the sex industry and are led to a life of exploitation, deprived of basic human rights. Most are women and children and their cases often go unnoticed and unreported due to threats from offenders, language barriers or mistrust of authorities."

"By exposing the reality of this terrible crime to the light of day, Canadians can better recognize and report evidence of criminal activity."

The RCMP Human Trafficking National Co-ordination Centre will also run its own "I'm Not for Sale" awareness campaign.

The Mounties have put together a human trafficking information kit for police, governments, non-governmental organizations and the public.

Sgt. Marie-Claude Arsenault of the RCMP co-ordination centre said it's important to enlist the help of the public.

"Our partnership with Crime Stoppers allows people to anonymously report the abuse and be assured that the information will be communicated to the police."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Iran gives as good as it gets in stoning debate

The international crossfire over Iran's stoning sentence for a woman convicted of adultery intensified yesterday with a top European Union official calling it "barbaric" and an Iranian spokesman saying it's about punishing a criminal and not a human rights issue.

The sharp words from both sides provide a snapshot of the dispute: Western leaders are ramping up pressure to call off the sentence for Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani and Iran is framing it as a matter for its own courts and society.

"If release of all those who have committed murder is considered defending human rights, all European countries can ... free murderers."
RAMIN MEHMANPARAST, IRAN'S FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN

The case of the 43-year-old mother of two also spills over into larger and even more complex issues for Iran's Islamic leaders of national sovereignty and defence of their system of justice.

Iranian authorities routinely defend their legal codes and human rights standards as fully developed and in keeping with the country's traditions and values. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief



Registry gains popular ground

OPINION. A new poll suggests public opinion was shifting in favour of keeping the controversial long-gun registry, even before the RCMP issued its favourable evaluation last month.

The late August poll by The Canadian Press Harris-Decima indicates that 48 per cent of respondents thought it would be a bad idea to get rid of the registry, up from 42 per cent in April and 41 per cent last November.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Self-love, hate pervade site

RESEARCH. A new study suggests that Facebook is a magnet for narcissists and people with low self-esteem.

The York University research shows that individuals with higher levels of narcissism and those with lower self-esteem spend more time on the massively popular social-networking website.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec's euthanasia hearings underway

One side compared euthanasia to murder. The other laid out a series of proposed ground rules for doing it more humanely.

Quebec's public hearings into dying with dignity began yesterday with a demonstration of the deeply held opinions in the debate.

The commission chief quickly conceded that a consensus is unlikely to emerge following several months of hearings.

Euthanasia and assisted suicide are illegal in Canada and, barring a dramatic change in Ottawa, these hearings won't change that. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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News in brief



▶ A Babylonian clay foundation cone.

Stolen artifacts back at home

IRAQ. Hundreds of Iraqi artifacts looted from museums and archaeological sites across the country have been returned to Iraq.

More than 500 pieces were on display at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday, including a 4,400-year-old statue of a Sumerian king discovered in the 1920s at the ancient city of Ur, in southern Iraq.

The headless statue was stolen from the Iraqi National Museum during the looting and chaos that followed the 2003 U.S.-led invasion. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Volcano covers area in ash

ERUPTION. An Indonesian volcano shot a towering cloud of black ash high into the air yesterday, dusting villages 25 kilometres away in its most powerful eruption since awakening last week from four centuries of dormancy.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RCMP to clean up Craigslist

SEX CRIMES. The RCMP says it's working with Craigslist to try to stop erotic ads that many fear are a functioning as cover for prostitution from being posted on the company's website in Canada.

Craigslist shut down its adult services section in the United States on Saturday and replaced it with a black bar that simply says "censored."

But the Canadian site still has an "erotic" link listed under services.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

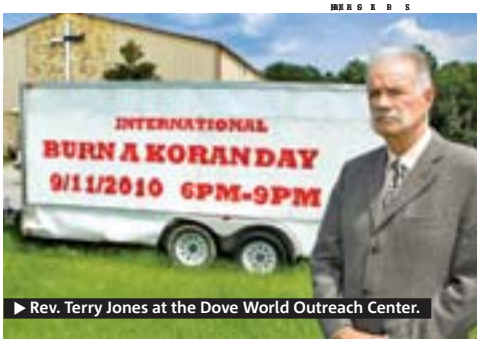
burning still a go

- Jones says Constitution gives him right to burn book
- State Dept. urges Americans to condemn Jones' plan

The government turned up the pressure yesterday on the head of a small Florida church who plans to burn copies of the Qur'an on Sept. 11, warning him that doing so could endanger U.S. troops and Americans everywhere.

But the Rev. Terry Jones insisted he would go ahead with his plans, despite criticism from the top U.S. general in Afghanistan, the White House and the State Department, as well as a host of religious leaders.

Gen. David Petraeus warned yesterday in an email to The Associated Press that "images of the burning of a Qur'an would undoubtedly be used by extremists in Afghanistan — and around the world — to inflame public opinion and incite violence." It was a rare example of a military commander taking a position on a domestic political matter.



▶ Rev. Terry Jones at the Dove World Outreach Center.

Jones responded that he is also concerned but refused to cancel the protest set for Saturday at his Dove World Outreach Center, a church that espouses an anti-Islam philosophy.

The Vatican newspaper yesterday published an article in which Catholic bishops criticized Jones' plan.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Terry Jones file

Jones gained some local notoriety last year when he posted signs in front of his small church declaring "Islam is of the Devil."

- **Bad timing** Jones' Qur'an-burning scheme, which he announced in July, attracted wider attention just as an emotional debate was taking shape over the proposed Islamic centre near the ground zero site in New York.
- **"Evil" book** The Qur'an, according to Jones, is "evil" because it espouses something other than biblical truth and incites radical, violent behaviour among Muslims.
- **No denomination** Jones' Dove Outreach Center is independent of any denomination. The church follows the Pentecostal tradition.



Interest rate rise expected

But some economists question wisdom of raising rates when growth has slowed

Interest rates are expected to rise for the third time in as many months today.

A consensus of economists believe Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney will overlook recent disappointing economic data and hike the trendsetting rate a quarter point to one per cent.

But many economists question how much further Carney can go in his current tightening phase considering that the U.S. is heading in the opposite direction. And some blame the sharp slowdown during the spring and summer on the anticipation of higher interest rates.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bad idea?

Some believe Carney has already moved too quickly.

- **Slow GDP** Last week, Statistics Canada reported that the country's gross domestic product rose two per cent in the second quarter, a far cry from the previous quarter's 5.8 per cent advance.
- **Homes and cars** The slowdown was most acute in the two areas that are most sensitive to interest rates, home and car sales, notes economist Carl Weinberg.

TV. Making news



▶ Quebecor CEO Pierre Karl Peladeau is attempting to launch a new right-wing, all-news network.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. takes an interest

The controversy over a proposed conservative Canadian TV network is making news south of the border. The Hollywood Reporter has carried two stories in the past week detailing Quebecor's bid to launch Sun TV News, a 24-hour right-wing all-news network.

Market moment

TSX	Dollar	Oil	Natural gas 1,000 cu ft
- 42.94 (12,101.98)	– 0.8¢ (95.42¢ US)	– 51¢ US ($74.09 US)	$3.857 (- 8.2¢)
			Gold contracts $1,257.30 (+ $8.10)

PRICES AS OF 4 P.M. YESTERDAY

Wealthy Chinese urged to give more

KIN CHEUNG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



▶ Chinese billionaire Wang Chuanfu

Microsoft Corp. co-founder Bill Gates and billionaire investor Warren Buffett plan to sell the art of giving to China's super rich in a visit this month that's already sparked some soul searching among the world's second-largest number of billionaires.

Reactions to Gates and Buffett's trip have been varied: One prominent Chinese philanthropist quickly pledged his entire fortune to charity, while the head of a private foundation said Chinese businesses should be leery of emulating American-style donations before essential standards such as workers' rights are improved. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1 in 5 firms plan to hire: Survey

8% **Economists have warned that Canada's unemployment rate could remain around eight per cent for some time.**

Miners in Western and Atlantic Canada could be some of Canada's most desirable job candidates in the coming quarter, according to a survey of employer intentions by a global staffing firm. The survey released yesterday by Manpower Canada found 21 per cent of more than 1,900 Canadian employers expect to increase their payrolls in the fourth quarter of 2010, but seven per cent anticipate cutbacks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Just sayin'

PAUL SULLIVAN



According to biologists, I'm a mammal, a warm-blooded creature with fur.

According to some wags, I'm also a MAMIL, or middle-aged man in Lycra, one of a species seen waddling out from our dens on weekends and mounting expensive road bikes in a picturesque attempt to capture some of the reflected glory that goes with the Tour de France and other sexy, manly European road races.

I'm not sure who coined the term, but it refers to men of a certain age, who, freaking out at the loss of youth, don't buy a red Porsche Boxster, opting instead for a red Pinarello or Specialized S-Works road bike. Even though it can set them back up to $10,000, it's cheaper than the chariot, saves on CO2 and helps them stay fit. With all the money they save, they can outfit themselves in the bike gear of their favourite Tour De France hero, like Alberto Contador or old Ironsides, Lance Armstrong.

MAMILs also exhibit some interesting behaviour. For example, they shave their legs. They think it makes them more aerodynamic. Long-suffering spouses refrain from pointing out the obvious: That if their significant MAMIL would only lay off the carbs and drop 20 pounds, it would be a damn sight easier to get up the hill.

"MAMILs also exhibit some interesting behaviour. For example, they shave their legs."

MAMILs travel in packs, often with MAFILs, (middle-aged females in Lycra, natch), who are given equal status in the herd, at least until the testosterone starts to run and the boys can't help racing even though they know they won't be able to walk, never mind do chores, rendering them useless for the rest of the weekend, sowing discord in the den.

MAMILs also love hills, and grunt up mountains at the slightest provocation. Not everyone has the cash, time or guts to climb the Col du Tourmalet, a daunting feature of the Tour De France, but here in Vancouver, MAMILs think nothing of riding up Cypress Bowl and Mount Seymour on the same day, a combined climb of almost 30 kilometres, straight up.

This Saturday morning will be a great opportunity to catch 4,000 of us in the RBC GranFondo Whistler, a breathtaking 120-kilometre ride along the Sea to Sky Highway to Whistler from downtown Vancouver. The GranFondo (which means "big ride" in sexy Italian, the lingua franca of MAMILs) has a net elevation gain of 650 metres, which is perfect for grunting up, and the first of its kind in Canada.

It sold out months ago, so next year's GranFondo promises to be even bigger. And it's just the start. The GranFondo Lycra will stretch from coast to coast. Organizers are planning to launch events in major MAMIL habitats, wherever there are large concentrations of mid-life crisis.

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER



Chew on that Conan

Letters & Tweets

Re: Thanks Conan ... thanks a lot (Sept. 7)

HALIFAX. Why doesn't Conan come for a visit and we can show him what Halifax is really like?
STEPHEN ADAMS

HALIFAX. I'd like to know what the history is between Conan O'Brien and Nova Scotia. Conan called out Nova Scotia in his 2000 Harvard graduation speech, as well spouting something about our T.V. test signal being the lowest-rated TV "program" ever.

Anyone know why he likes to poke fun?
HALIRES

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NOEL VASQUEZ/GETTY IMAGES



HALIFAX. The best part of the joke is the inevitable hilarious reaction from Nova Scotians who take it far to seriously. **JAY**

HALIFAX. I'll take the beautiful fall weather and the snow we get over intense heat, smog, congestion and wildfires any day Mr. O'Brien!
NETTE

We asked: What is the first thing you notice about the opposite sex?

TORONTO. The first thing I notice is their mouth. Not if they have full lips or thin lips. I want to see those teeth. Teeth don't have to be chemically enhanced to be blaring white. Just clean and taken care of. **KAREN MAXWADE**

What one thing would you take on a deserted island?

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Metro Minute at Atlantic Fringe

The 20th edition of the Atlantic Fringe Festival is in full swing across Halifax with plenty of great shows to take in.

The popular grassroots festival opened last Thursday and goes through to Sunday. It features 230 performers in 32 shows at five different venues across the city. As well, it's affordable theatre — allowing you to take in several plays.

Organizer Ken Pinto says "there's no B.S." with his festival that promotes many new plays people know nothing about in a quaint, laid-back setting.

Visit atlanticfringe.ca for complete details, including a complete list of shows and performance times.

METRO HALIFAX

CONTRIBUTED



▶ Check out the Atlantic Fringe Festival this week.

2 scene

Didn't we see that one already?

Hollywood loves a good formula The fall movie season is rife with tried-and-true plot setups that might just give you a case of deja vu


DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

Coming up

Beginning of the end for Harry Potter

Nov. 19 will see the release of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1, the first of the franchise's two-part finale. Last year we spoke with director David Yates about the process of shooting the final three films back to back. Poor guy was trying to be stoic about it: "You can't look at the top of the mountain. It's such a long way. You just look at it like, 'I'm going to get it over there today.' The two things you mustn't think about are the response to them and [not looking] too far ahead." METRO



For the latest on the Venice Film Festival, scan this code or visit metronews.ca/scene

UPCOMING RELEASE

LOOKS LIKE



SEPT. 17
The Town — A second directorial effort from Ben Affleck finds him in front of the camera showing off his greatest strength — a Boston accent. He plays a thief trying to go straight, but who inevitably becomes torn between his loyalties and his love for a new hot thing.



This latest installment is starting to build a case for a **"Boston crime movies"** genre, which would already include Affleck's first film, **Gone Baby Gone, Mystic River** and recent classic **The Departed.** We'll pay anything to hear those Southie accents utter **"Did you kill my dawtah?"** and **"That was nawt wicked smaht."**



OCT. 1
Let Me In – Chloe Moretz stars as a troubled child in this American version of the Swedish film Let the Right One In. Critics seemed to have liked the original that doing a remake wasn't really necessary, but you know how Americans feel about subtitles.



Aside from the obvious association with the source material, the murderous child theme is not only something that makes an appearance every year (like last year's **The Orphan**), but this season alone sports at least two others, including **Case 39,** starring Renee Zellweger, and **The Last Exorcism.**



OCT. 8
Secretariat — Secretariat is a biopic about housewife Penny Chenery (Diane Lane) who takes over the management of her ailing father's stables, only to have one of its horses win the Triple Crown. Really? Another horse movie? Did anyone even watch Seabiscuit? It was a bad idea the first time, folks.



Obviously **Seabiscuit,** but also when you really think about it, there are a ton of horse movies out there: **Black Beauty, The Black Stallion, National Velvet, Flicka.** And here we were thinking these films are only made for long-haired 10 year-old girls.



OCT. 15
Red — A rogue team of ex-CIA agents now marked as the agency's top targets reunite the team to show the U.S. government what's up. Helen Mirren, John Malkovich, Bruce Willis and Morgan Freeman make up the team and — surprise! — the source material is a comic book.



It's kind of **The Bucket List** crossed with **The Expendables** or **The Losers** if Dame Helen had bigger pectorals or if Malkovich looked a little more like Terry Crews. Assembling such a top-notch list of actors for a caper like this reeks of hopes for another box-office payday like **Oceans 11.**

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▶ Pat Tillman, left, and his brother Kevin are featured in The Tillman Story, just one of several great documentaries out this fall.

True life, true story

2010 is gearing up to be one of the best years for documentaries — ever! Two movie experts weigh in on what's in store for the next few months

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

This summer, the editor-in-chief of Fandango.com, Chuck Walton, decided to watch 100 films in 100 days. And although he might be approaching movie fatigue at this point, he was able to talk with us about what documentaries will soon be big. "Documentaries have changed," he says about the genre. "It's not the same old 'I'm going to educate you about something' kind of film, but rather it's a great style of storytelling."

The Tillman Story

"I saw Restrepo over the summer and really loved it," Walton says regarding the film chronicling the year journalist Sebastian Junger and a photographer spent with an American platoon in Afghanistan. "(The Tillman Story) is a different, more personal take on the Iraq war," he says of this doc about the death of former NFL player and U.S. Army Cpl. Pat Tillman.

Freakonomics

Walton is curious about Freakonomics not only because it's based on the best-selling book, but also because the style of the film is so appealing. "Each vignette (five in all) is by a different documentary filmmaker, including Alex Gibney and Morgan Spurlock," he says of the award-winning Taxi to the Dark Side and Super Size Me directors, respectively.

Waiting for Superman

"Anyone who is a fan of An Inconvenient Truth will be interested in this film," says Walton. Directed by Davis Guggenheim (An Inconvenient Truth, It Might Get Loud), Superman analyzes the failures of U.S. public education by following students navigating the system.

More Oscar bait

We asked Scott Feinberg, film industry analyst and film blogger (scott feinberg.com), for his predictions on which docs will be nominated this year:

- **Waiting for Superman –** Looking at the failures of the American public education system.
- **Inside Job –** A documentary about the financial crisis.
- **A Film Unfinished –** Focuses on a Nazi-produced film about the Warsaw ghetto
- **Client 9: The Rise and Fall of Eliot Spitzer –** A doc on former New York governor Eliot Spitzer's rise and fall.
- **Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work –** Explores the life and career of the famous comedienne.

Catfish and I'm Still Here



▶ Joaquin Phoenix

These films fall into the "Are they really documentaries?" category.

Catfish which details one man's quest to figure out the true identity of a woman he met on Facebook, and I'm Still Here, a film on Joaquin Phoenix's transition into a hip-hop artist, are both raising questions about what constitutes a true doc.

Walton says these unique takes are helping make the genre more relevant: "Both play around with the format to make it more entertaining."

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Vegas police defend Paris' quick release

Las Vegas police are defending Paris Hilton's quick release from jail after her August 27 arrest on suspicion of cocaine possession, saying they wanted to avoid disruptions in the jail's operations.

Hilton was out of the jail in about three hours, roughly half the average time it takes to process people facing the same charge, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported.

Metropolitan Police Deputy Chief Jim Dixon, who runs the jail, acknowledged Hilton was pushed through the booking process to get her into a separate room and out of the jail as soon as possible.

He noted a crowd of about 100 people gathered outside the Wynn Las Vegas resort to snap photos and shoot video of Hilton while her boyfriend, Cy Waits, was pulled over and arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence.

"Yeah, she was treated differently so I don't have a disruption of my process here at the county jail," Dixon told the Review-Journal.

"When you bring somebody in like that, everybody comes over and tries to look at them. I'd have officers attempting to keep inmates away from her. I'd have disruptions."

Because of overcrowding, Hilton presented a major problem for jailers, Dixon added.

Hilton, 29, was charged with one felony count of cocaine possession after authorities say she opened a purse in front of a police lieutenant and a small baggie of cocaine fell out. Hilton claims neither the purse nor the cocaine was hers.

She's scheduled to appear before Las Vegas Justice of the Peace Joe Bonaventure on Oct. 27.

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▶ Paris Hilton was arrested and charged with one felony count of cocaine possession on Aug. 27.

Oksana wants Mel to pay for publicist, boost stipend

Oksana Grigorieva has some new demands in her ongoing custody battle with Mel Gibson, according to TMZ. The Russian singer is reportedly asking the judge to make Gibson pay her an addition $84,000 to pay off the public relations firm she's been using.

Grigorieva is also reportedly looking to have her monthly stipend increased from $6,000 to $40,000. Sources doubt the judge will award approve any money for the publicist, as it's not for the care of her and Gibson's daughter.

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Celebrity tweets



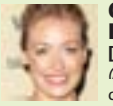
Jessica Simpson [@JessicaSimpson] This day last year my life changed because I lost my baby Daisy Mae- the best pup of all time...give your dog some extra love today!!



John Cusack [@johncusack] i'm just as hard on democrats too -- FDR was great but dems are as much in the bait and switch game these days as the gop.. i'm sad to say.



Katy Perry [@katyperry] In Italy having an Eat Pray Love moment stuffing my face w/ spaghetti (say w/accent) Loving it, eating it, praying it won't stick.



Cat Deeley [@catdeeley] @jamie_oliver cooked your roast chicken today with creamy cheesy leeks and green beans! Delicious! ven if I do say so myself!

METRO







Sure, there are hundred dollar bottles of wine in Napa Valley, but you don't have to crush your budget to have a great time From touring avant-garde art, to gliding up a mountain on a gondola so you can sip champagne at the top, there are plenty of low-cost options

ERIC RISBERG



Heather de Savoye, left, and Amy Hall sample wine following a tour at the Rubicon Estate Winery in Rutherford, Calif.

Napa Valley offers grape fun

No doubt about it, the Napa Valley can be expensive. But there are vine values to be found if you know where to look.

Here are five things to do in wine country for $25 or less each:

Art au natural The di Rosa art preserve features groundbreaking artworks from the San Francisco Bay area set in 88 hectares of vineyard and gardens at the southern end of the Napa Valley. Created by collectors Rene and Veronica di Rosa, works are housed in their former home as well as the grounds. Your visit can be as simple as a free jaunt through the Gatehouse Gallery, at the entrance, to guided tours of the grounds and the di Rosas' former home.

The Rubicon of Wine Love movies? Love wine? Then a tour of Francis Ford Coppola's Rubicon Estate may be an offer you can't refuse. Founded in 1880, by the 1970s, the winery had fallen on hard times, which is when director Coppola came across it and began a 25-year journey of restoring the chateau and winery.

Old Faithful It's all about water, not wine at the Old Faithful geyser in Calistoga at the top of the valley. This isn't the biggest geyser in the world, but it is regular, spouting off every 40 minutes or so. The water, about 350 degrees, shoots as high as 18 metres. This is one place in Napa where kids are welcome.

Up in the air Take a gondola ride at Sterling Vineyards up a hillside to the beautiful, white-stucco winery. Adult guests are greeted with a glass of wine and then sent on a self-guided tour that offers a glimpse of winemaking operations and barrel storage before emerging on to a sunny rooftop patio with a breathtaking view of the valley. Tastings are set up in five stages along the tour.

From the terrace Finish your day by heading south to Domaine Carneros. This is a sparkling property built in the style of a French chateau. It's also one of the few wineries where you can get table service. Sit on the terrace overlooking a rolling green sweep of vineyard and order a glass of bubly and plate of cheese.

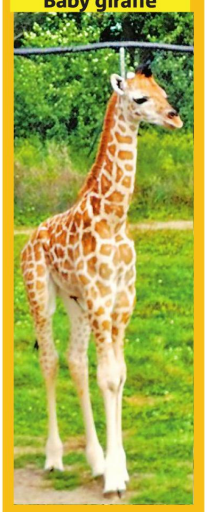
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If you go

- **The di Rosa art preserve,** 5200 Sonoma Highway, Napa, Calif., 707-226-5991, dirosaart.org. Open Wed. to Fri., 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tours and tastings start at $15 US.
- **Rubicon Estate,** at 1991 St. Helena Hwy., Rutherford, Calif., 800-782-4266, rubiconestate.com. Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Old Faithful geyser,** 1299 Tubbs Lane, Calistoga, Calif., 707-942-6463, oldfaithfulgeyser.com. Adults, US$10, seniors, $7 US, children, 6-12, $3 US, under 6, free.
- **Sterling Vineyards,** 1111 Dunaweal Lane, Calistoga, Calif., 800-726-6136, sterlingvineyards.com/home. Tour and tasting starts at $25 US.
- **Domaine Carneros,** 1240 Duhig Rd., Napa, Calif., 800-716-2788, domainecarneros.com. Table service from 10 a.m.to 5:45 p.m.

3 life

Baby giraffe



The largest herd of Rothschild giraffes in Canada is now a little bigger, with the birth of Johanna at the African Lion Safari. The 300-hectare drive-through park, which also features lions, baboons, zebras, elephants and other animals, says the healthy 1.6-metre-tall giraffe arrived Aug. 18, standing up within minutes of birth.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SCANLIFE

Renewed Bandelier National Monument tells story of New Mexico's pueblo people

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The future of travel is here



▶ The new iPhone application, mTrip uses the latest smart phone technology.

mTrip application for iPhone blends technology and travel reality
Serves as instant travel guide for tourists all over world

The new iPhone application mTrip is a travel guide and then some: Using the latest smart phone technology, it helps travellers stay on track while abroad.

But isn't getting lost part of the fun of travelling?

So-called "augmented reality" became more widely available about a year ago and takes advantage of a smart phone's GPS and compass features, along with access to high-speed wireless networks, to mash up super-local web content with the world that surrounds you.

It works like this: You turn on the application, hit the augmented reality button and then look through your phone's camera at the Brooklyn Bridge or the Empire State Building. Icons pop up that show you other points of interest, or restaurants within about a kilometre of your location, whether the restaurant is open, and what reviewers are saying about it.

MTrip developers partnered with travel guide company Sparks to provide content but also rely on user-generated reviews and suggestions.

There's a spot in the app that allows you to send a new place back to mTrip for reviews and additions to its list.

The app also has something called mTrip genius, which works similarly to the genius feature in iTunes. You note whether you want more or fewer parks, religion or monuments, and it designs an itinerary for you.

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▶ Spaghetti with Butternut Squash, Sage and Pecorino from The Vegetarian Student Cookbook. Ryland Peters & Small; rylandpeters.com.

Vegetarian students now have options

From yummy snacks, food to impress and quick desserts, The Vegetarian Student Cookbook is a must for hungry students short on time and money.

You're finally heading out into the exciting world of student life and the prospect of cooking up a vegetarian storm seems very daunting, but don't panic — check out The Vegetarian Student Cookbook and its more than 120 recipes.

Ingredients :

- 14 oz. dried spaghetti
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 14 oz. butternut squash, peeled, deseeded and cut into thin wedges
- 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- freshly chopped parsley
- ½ cup Pecorino, grated or shaved
- 10–12 small fresh sage leaves
- salt and black pepper



Spaghetti with Butternut Squash, Sage and Pecorino
Preparation:

1. Bring a large saucepan of water to the boil and add a pinch of salt. Drop in the pasta and cook according to the instructions on the packet.
2. Heat the oil in a frying pan over high heat. Add the squash and cook for 5–6 minutes, turning often, until golden but not breaking up. Add the garlic and sage to the pan and cook for 2–3 minutes. Remove from the heat and leave to sit to allow the flavours to develop.
3. Drain the pasta well and return to the warm pan with the squash mixture.
4. Add the parsley and half of the Pecorino and season well with salt and pepper. Serve with the remaining cheese sprinkled over the top. Makes four servings.

FROM THE VEGETARIAN STUDENT COOKBOOK

Superfood



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Let's make a deal

Networking site Fiverr.com offers services for less than $5

KEITH CARMAN
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

A website anonymously pairing people looking to have tasks out of their realm completed quickly and inexpensively with those able to offer such resources for the nominal, unwavering fee of five dollars, Fiverr.com is one of the world's fastest-growing serviced-based networking sites.

"Finding outsourced or freelanced minor tasks that are monumental and time consuming for the novice but simple for the experienced. That's what this site is," notes Micha Kaufman, co-founder of Fiverr.com about his creation. "The idea of Fiverr is to capture this notion that everyone is a micro-entrepreneur and can turn a profit from it."

Used by homemakers, students, amateurs and professionals alike, a quick glimpse of Fiverr.com unveils offers of everything from the outlandish (emailing pets/writing gag songs) to practical (designing Flash logos for businesses) in an effort to allow capitalization on one's particular speciality.

Today, thousands of people buy and sell expertise or kitsch through the strictly-online service which allows person-to-person, person-to-business and business-to-business employ by simply placing an order through Fiverr.com. Enrolled participants may purchase from other Fiverrs or post their own offers, with solicitations sent via email. Upon completion of the task, payment is rendered via the entrepreneur's PayPal account with a percentage going to maintain the Fiverr enterprise.

"I draw caricatures of people," notes Vancouver-based political cartoonist J.J. McCullough who uses Fiverr as an addendum to his own filibustercartoons.com site. McCullough's work has quickly made him a popular contributor.

"It's fun to browse, trade and exchange with other Fiverrs as a self-promotional tool; great for offering simplistic, minimalist services."

With its ease-of-use, low financial impact and increased online presence, Fiverr.com required little advertising to gain notoriety. Building a membership base principally via word-of-mouth, Kaufman notes that the site appeals to both dedicated dollar earners and those seeking diversion.

"Because Fiverr.com is available for both financial gain as well as personal fulfillment, fun and social connectivity, its value is broad; far beyond just making a few dollars. Some people have proven their abilities through Fiverr and moved on to great jobs. Others sell their abilities or wares just to do something amusing."



▶ What's Your Five Dollar Dexterity? Find out at Fiverr.com.

"Fiverr.com is intuitively simple. It takes only seconds for anyone to buy or sell whatever you need for five dollars."
MICHA KAUFMAN

Growth spurt

Launched a mere six months ago, Fiverr.com has taken off like something out of the late-'90s dot-com boom.

It is already the 450th most popular website in the U.S. and 800th globally; has just surpassed 100,000 services offered/rendered in that brief time span. Even Micha Kaufman is an enthusiastic customer.

"Apart from the 'eat your own dog food' that most companies should do, I've tried all kinds of things; spent tons of money here in small five dollar doses," he laughs. "Mostly on special gifts for loved ones like special postcards or having a song written and recorded for my wife."

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▶ Bad habits can lead to problems throughout the school year.

to score at school

Implement good routine or bad habits can sneak back

Now that the school year is underway, students — and parents — are settling back into the school groove. Unfortunately, some students can also find themselves settling back into bad habits from previous years.

"It's important to start the new school year off on the right foot," said Dr. Nick Whitehead, founder and CEO of Oxford Learning. "The habits that students develop in the early weeks can stick with them for the entire year."

According to Dr. Whitehead, the sooner that students make good school habits part of their daily routine, the more likely that they will keep these habits for the entire school year. The trick, he says, is to implement good school habits as soon as possible, or else bad habits can sneak back.

So how do parents and students implement good school habits for the entire school year?

Dr. Whitehead recommends that parents take out last year's final report card and review the teacher's comments.

"If there are school issues from last year that weren't addressed over the summer, it's likely that they will become problems again this year," he says. "Knowing what the challenges are, and getting help with these areas before they become issues, is a great way to avoid repeating bad habits."

Dr. Whitehead also recommends that parents reintroduce school-year routines such as limiting TV and computer time, setting bedtimes and wake up times. NEWS CANADA

Bad habits

Five habits that ruin a school year:

1. **Oversleeping/Not Getting Enough Sleep.** Students of all ages need sleep. Research has shown that during sleep, the brain files and stores information learned throughout the day. Dr. Nick Whitehead, founder and CEO of Oxford Learning, says that not getting enough sleep can impair a student's ability to focus in class.
2. **Too Much Screen Time.** TVs, computers, and cellphones are distracting to students. Mounting evidence is showing that multitasking is not as good as was once originally thought. Accessing the Internet during homework time doesn't necessarily improve students' ability to work, and it can detract from their ability to focus on a single task for a period of time.
3. **Procrastinating.** From social lives to family responsibilities and extra-curricular activities, students can be tempted to leave homework until the last minute. Too many distractions, not following a schedule, or not using an agenda can put homework at the bottom of the priority list. According to oxfordlearning.com, students can avoid last-minute scrambles and late-night cram sessions by making schoolwork a priority.
4. **Poor Nutrition.** Food is fuel—the better the quality, the better the performance. If children eat a sugary breakfast, or skip breakfast altogether, they run the risk of performing poorly in school. Without proper nutrition, students can tire out and lose focus. Students should focus on their teacher, not on their rumbling bellies.
5. **Not Getting Help.** According to Dr. Whitehead, one of the biggest mistakes that students make is waiting too long to seek help. Often it takes a call from the teacher or a failing grade before students seek support. At that point it takes more effort to correct the problem than if a student had asked for help at the "I'm-not-really-understanding-this stage."



4 sports

Hockey

James Sheppard
The Minnesota Wild centre from Lower Sackville is out three to four months after suffering an injury to his kneecap in an ATV accident in Colorado. The 23-year-old former ninth-overall pick is entering his fourth NHL season.





Stephen Dixon
The Halifax native has signed with the Kontinental Hockey League's Amur Khabarovsk. The 25-year-old former world junior gold medallist spent the past two seasons with Brynas of the Swedish Elite League, recording 62 points in 106 games.

Scan code for sports news

Odd man out must sit for Mooseheads

Because of league rules, the Herd will have to bench a 20-year-old this weekend ◐ Delmas set to play in goal as Corbeil attends NHL tournament



MATTHEW WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

The Halifax Mooseheads are planning to sit a 20-year-old in the stands on the weekend.

The Mooseheads, who host the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles on Friday and the Bathurst Titan on Saturday, are expected to go with 20-year-old Peter Delmas in goal along with 17-year-old Anthony Terenzio.

The Mooseheads' third goalie, 19-year-old Mathieu Corbeil, will be away with the Columbus Blue Jackets at an NHL rookie tournament in Traverse City, Mich.

Because Delmas is an over-ager, one of the club's three other 20-year-olds — forwards Gerrad Grant and Charles Bety and defenceman Pascal Amyot — will be a scratch. League rules allow only three 20-year-olds to dress per team.

"It's a situation we don't have any choice in with one of our goalies going away to camp," Mooseheads general manager Cam Russell said. "We have four 20s we're very happy with right now and we have some tough decisions to make."

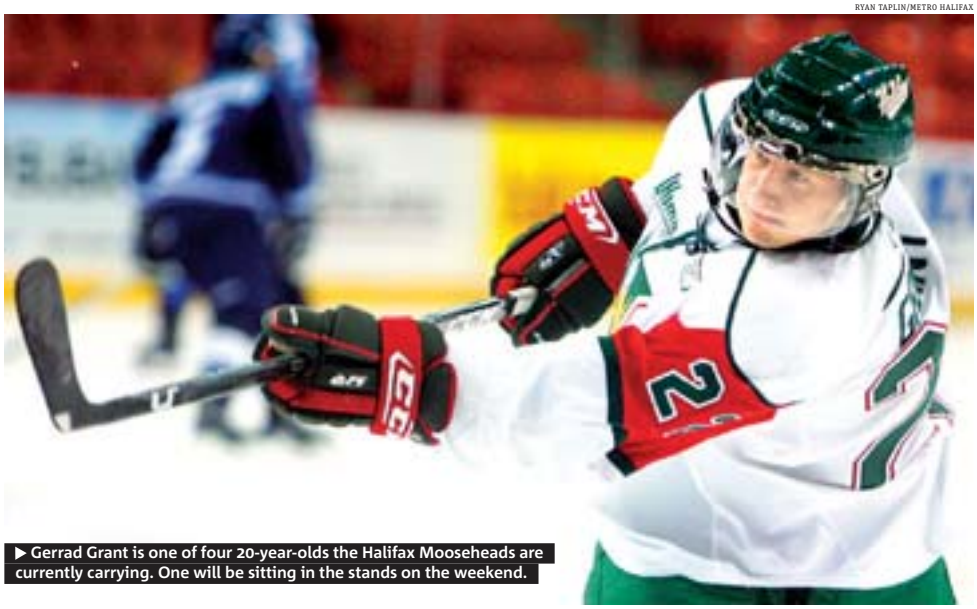
Delmas, who leaves for a tryout with the Montreal Canadiens on Sept. 13, is on the trade block and is expected to be moved if he doesn't sign an NHL contract.

Also away with NHL teams this weekend are defencemen Konrad Abeltshauser, with the San Jose Sharks, and Sawyer Hannay, with the Vancouver Canucks, leaving the Mooseheads with just six available blue-liners.

That would indicate Bety will be the odd man out up front, with Grant solidly entrenched as a top-line forward.

48
The jersey number highly touted rookie Luca Ciampini will wear for the Mooseheads this season. Martin Frk will wear No. 91, while Garrett Clarke will don No. 82 and Sawyer Hannay No. 77.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX



▶ Gerrad Grant is one of four 20-year-olds the Halifax Mooseheads are currently carrying. One will be sitting in the stands on the weekend.

Desmarais forces his way into Herd's lineup

When the Halifax Mooseheads drafted Simon Desmarais, they spoke openly about sending him back to midget AAA this season.

But the 16-year-old forced the hand of head coach and general manager Cam Russell, outplaying a number of older, higher-drafted players who were ahead of him on the depth chart and cracking the club's opening-night roster.

"When that happens, it's unfair to just give a roster spot to someone everybody thinks should be there," Russell said. "He's played well enough to earn a spot on this hockey team, so that's why he stays."

Desmarais had just four assists in 42 games last season with College Antoine-Girouard in Saint-Hyacinthe, Que.

His stats certainly aren't eye-popping and may never be, but the five-foot-11 181-pounder's defensive play and reliability are off the charts.

The Mooseheads drafted him in the second round, 28th overall, in June.

"He has great ability, his skating is excellent," Russell said.

"We had no choice — we had to keep him. He played that well."

MATTHEW WUEST



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Levingston resigns as PBL president

Levingston lasts just 3 months in role • Expansion process played factor in 'professional differences' with PBL chairman

MATTHEW WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

METRO FILE



Andre Levingston

Citing "professional differences," Halifax Rainmen owner Andre Levingston stepped down as Premier Basketball League president yesterday.

Levingston said he took the job just three months ago with a mandate to "take the league to the next level," but said he "wasn't given the opportunity to do those things" by PBL chairman of the board Severko Hrywnak.

"My vision for the league and the vision of (Hrywnak) was different," Levingston said. "I decided it would be best for me to ... let (the league) put in place the vision they think is best."

There are six teams confirmed for the PBL's 2011 season and Levingston was attempting to bring new expansion teams on board.

"I didn't want these teams to be fly-by-night," Levingston said. "I didn't want it to be simple to be a part of our league anymore.

"I thought everybody would appreciate and respect those processes ... But my views were different than (Hrywnak's) and it's his league, he owns it, he can choose to run it any way he wants, so I just chose to step down."

The Rainmen announced Levingston's resignation but the PBL had not issued a press release as of last night.

FOOTBALL

Glavic out for at least 3 weeks



Erik Glavic will be sidelined for at least three weeks, according to the Calgary Herald.

The former Saint Mary's Huskies star and two-time Hec Crighton award winner will be unavailable to the Calgary Dinos after spraining his knee in Saturday's loss to the Saskatchewan Huskies.

The six-foot-five pivot won the Hec Crighton last year after throwing for 2,186 yards and 14 touchdowns and running for 503 yards and six majors in eight games.

It is not the same knee Glavic injured in 2007 at Saint Mary's.

METRO HALIFAX

Bailey K's 14 as Dry take lead

Jason Bailey pitched a complete game and struck out 14 as Dartmouth Moosehead Dry blanked the Kentville Wildcats 5-0 last night in Nova Scotia Senior Baseball League action at Beazley Field.

Joel Irvine led the bats with a two-RBI single as the Dry grabbed a 1-0 lead in the best-of-five semifinal, which resumes tonight in Kentville.

METRO HALIFAX

Venus heads to U.S. Open semifinals

Venus Williams is back in a Grand Slam semifinal.

Williams defeated French Open champion Francesca Schiavone 7-6 (5), 6-4 yesterday to make it back to her first Grand Slam semifinal since last year's Wimbledon.

Williams is seeded third, while Schiavone was the sixth seed.

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5 drive

In brief



A Swedish driver could be looking at a speeding fine of 780,000 euros after being caught driving at close to 300 km/h on a motorway in Switzerland. The motorist was doing more than twice the speed limit in his Mercedes Benz SLS, and suggested that his speeding was down to the "faulty" speedometer on his new car.
METRO WORLD NEWS

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JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO CANADA



▶ The 2011 Ford Escape Hybrid.

Escape to a greener driving experience

Hybrid version of Ford's bestselling compact SUV is handsome, practical and fun to drive ◐ Gasoline-electric system one of the best

JIL MCINTOSH
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

As fuel prices climb, many people are looking at hybrid-electric vehicles. One of my favourites is Ford's compact SUV, the Escape Hybrid.

Save for its badges and instrument cluster, it doesn't look much different from its conventional Escape siblings. It's what's inside that sets it apart. It uses a 2.5-litre four-cylinder gasoline, along with an electric motor and storage battery. You don't plug it in — such hybrids are coming, but aren't here yet — rather, Escape charges its battery while you're driving. Under the right conditions, such as low speeds or when full power isn't needed, it can run on electricity alone.

The electric motor can also boost the gasoline engine on acceleration, providing more power for less fuel. At a stop, the gas engine shuts off completely, so there's nothing coming out of the tailpipe at stoplights or in traffic. The lights, heater and stereo continue to work, and the electric motor restarts the engine, so there's no starter to wear out.

Available in both front- or all-wheel-drive, the Escape Hybrid starts at $34,899, while my top-of-the-line Limited AWD started at $42,299. That's $2,750 more than a Limited AWD with 3.0-litre V6 gasoline engine, which is one of the drawbacks of hybrids: they cost more, and you'll have to do the math to figure out if you're going to save enough in gasoline to make up the difference.

Escape's hybrid system works really well: it's pretty much seamless between gas and electric, its continuously variable (CVT) automatic transmission has none of the "rubber band" feeling these units can sometimes have, and the 7.5 L/100 km (38 mpg) that I got in a regular V6 Escape.

The five-passenger seating is roomy, and the upholstery is made of 100 per cent recycled materials. The rear seats fold down to make a flat cargo floor that's up to 170 cm long.

The specs

2011 Ford Escape Hybrid

- **VEHICLE TYPE** Compact SUV Hybrid
- **PRICE** $34,899 - $42,299, as-tested $45,049
- **ENGINE** 2.5-litre four-cylinder with hybrid system
- **FUEL ECONOMY** City 6.6, hwy 7.3, as-tested 7.5
- **WHAT'S BEST** Hybrid system works well, comfortable interior, practical design

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Cross over to Murano

Nissan model popular among shopper with an eye for style
Known issues related to accessories

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

When the Nissan Murano hit the road late in 2002, it offered distinctive styling in what would quickly grow to become a crowded marketplace full of similar crossover SUV models. Designed in California and riding the same platform as the Nissan Altima, Murano quickly became popular with shoppers with an eye for style.

All models got a 3.5 litre, 240-horsepower V6 engine and an available intelligent All Wheel Drive (AWD) system. A Continually Variable Transmission (CVT) was standard, and allowed the engine to operate more economically while enhancing smoothness and efficiency. This type of transmission has no gears to shift, and may feel 'funny' to some drivers until they get used to it.

Look for features like automatic climate control, a sunroof, heated power seats, Bose audio, a keyless ignition system, tinted windows and more. Navigation and a backup camera were available, too.

What Owners Like

Styling, space, flexibility and on-board storage were rated most highly by owners of the Murano, followed by driving dynamics and ride quality.

What Owners Hate

As it tends to go with crossover and SUV models, the most common owner-stated complaint deals with fuel mileage. Some owners wish for better fit and finish and a smoother ride on rough surfaces, too.

Common issues

Most of Murano's age-related issues seem to centre around smaller problems related to interior and exterior accessories.

Broken window motors, door handles and power seat motors have all been reported, so be sure to start your test-drive by thoroughly inspecting every electric and mechanical part of the vehicle's cabin.

The specs

- **MODEL** 2003 to 2007 Nissan Murano
- **VEHICLE TYPE** Crossover SUV
- **APPROXIMATE USED PRICE RANGE** $9,500 to $25,000

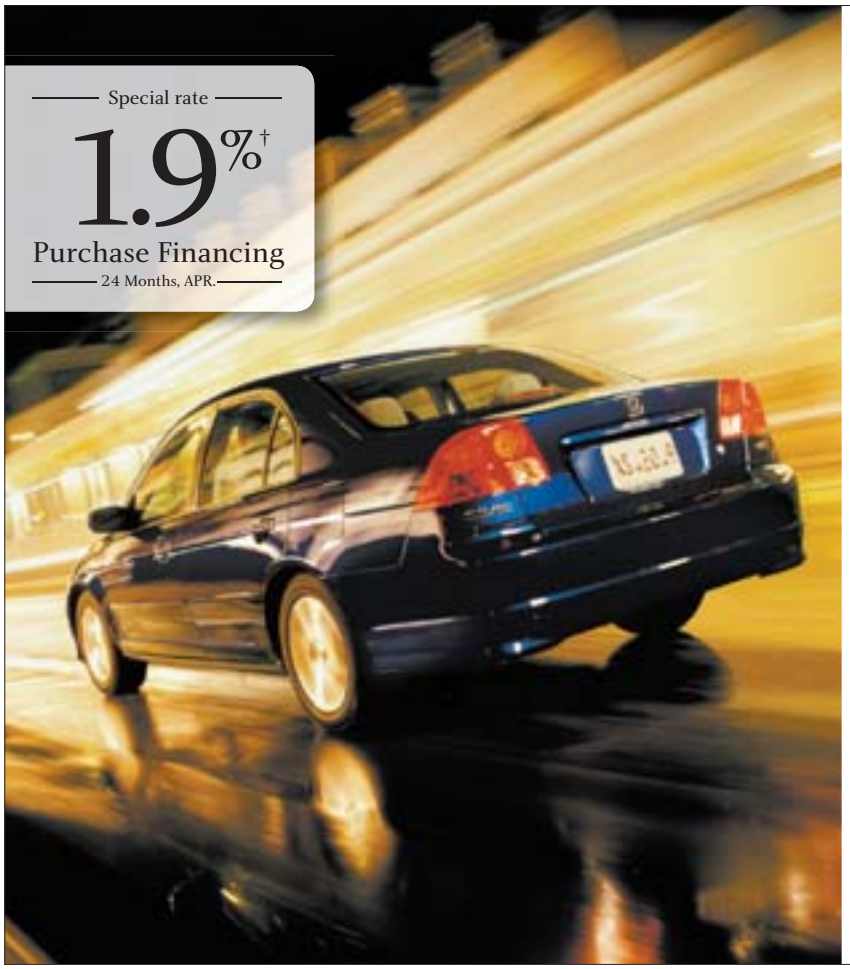
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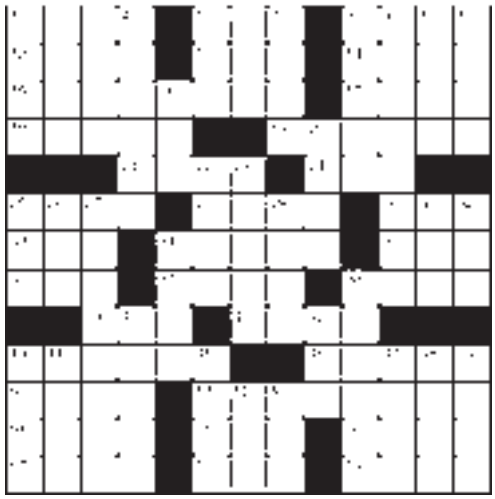
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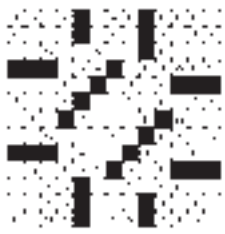
Crossword



Across
1 Hairless
5 Heidi's height
8 Bar room?
12 Pennsylvania port
13 Meadow
14 Colloquial greeting
15 Genius
17 Mid-month date
18 French composer Erik
19 Half a winter pair
21 Charlie Brown's expletive
24 Wire measure
25 Genealogy chart
28 Paper quantity
30 Peculiar
33 — generis
34 "Old MacDonald's Farm" refrain
35 Neither mate
36 Dowel
37 Jack of "Hawaii Five-0"
38 Wan
39 Owns
41 The Red and the Black
43 Missive
46 County of Ireland
50 Medley
51 Giving only two options
54 Artesian well?
55 "Hail!"
56 Ids' counterparts
57 Relaxation
58 Color
59 Jab

Down
1 Honey bunch
2 Carreras solo
3 Dryer buildup
4 Want
5 Hearty quaff
6 Maui memento
7 Brief pain spasm
8 Tex-Mex entree
9 Phantoms
10 Corrosive alkalis
11 Whip
16 Afternoon affair
20 Bullets, e.g.
22 Small combo
23 Prognosticators
25 Recipe meas.
26 Regret
27 The Reagan Era, pretty much
29 Staffer
31 Homer's interjection
32 Parched
34 Other-wise
38 Dormant
40 Expiate
42 Essen expletive
43 Earring locale
44 Director Kazan
45 Peruse
47 Jason's ship
48 Castle
49 Gaelic
52 Wall climber
53 Ball-bearing item

▶ Yesterday's answer



Sudoku

		9	6		7	2		
	6		9		1		4	
4								5
		8	4	7	3	5		
		7	2	1	6	4		
9								8
	4		7		8		5	
		2	3		5	9		

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

5	3	1	9	6	2	4	7	8
7	6	8	1	5	4	9	2	3
4	2	9	3	8	7	1	5	6
9	5	2	4	3	6	7	8	1
6	1	7	5	2	8	3	9	4
8	4	3	7	9	1	2	6	5
1	8	4	2	7	5	6	3	9
2	9	5	6	1	3	8	4	7
3	7	6	8	4	9	5	1	2

Send a KISS

Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

Aubrey I just wanted to say I love you and let you know how proud I am of you for starting College. Good luck baby I hop you had a great firsr day and remember I will always be right here to help you along the way.
LOVE ANDRE

My Darling Sunshine, I'm so Proud of You n want you to know that you are an Amazing Lady n a True Blessing!! The past 4 months have been awesome with you in my Life!! Lets make it many, many more!
HUGS N KISSES FROM YOUR CHEF XOXO

POLSKI OGORKI!!! here's to you making me smile for the last years. it's been too easy, fun and happy for it to not happen again in the future. lovies and kissies
LOVIES AND KISSIES - YOUR YUCKYSOBA GRRRRL



Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20
Today's new moon will help focus your mind on a single objective and before you know it you will be the one who everyone looks up to.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21
What seemed such a difficult problem yesterday will have the simplest of solutions today. The only thing that has actually changed is your perspective, but in a magical way that changes everything.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21
Later this month the Sun will move into the most dynamic area of your chart and your confidence will soar. However, you must deal with a domestic issue that threatens to spiral out of control.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Not only will today's new moon make you feel more alive but with Venus moving into your fellow Water sign of Scorpio you'll be a real live wire when it comes to love and affection.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 The most important thing now – in fact the only thing you should be thinking about – is getting your financial house in some sort of order. The new moon will help you make the right choices.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 The new moon in your sign makes this one of the best days of the year to launch new projects. Now is the time to do something about all those careful plans you've made.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 You know that your life needs to change but you can't seem to make the final effort. Maybe you're not quite yet ready to give it your best shot.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22
Venus, planet of emotional and material values, moves into your sign for an extended stay today, and that's good news all round. Love and luck will be closely linked over the next few weeks.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Have you got a new project lined up? Is it the kind of project that could make you rich and famous? If you have, now is the time to get started on it.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
The new moon in Virgo will do wonders for your confidence and encourage you to make far-reaching changes to your lifestyle. If you get the urge to travel don't fight it.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
You don't need to fear the future. You don't need to feel anything. Each and every human life unfolds according to a pre-ordained cosmic plan.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20
This is one of the best days of the year for partnerships of all kinds, but especially for affairs of the heart. Let your nearest and dearest know how much you love them.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest



WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS



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